

EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Oshkosh, WI

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

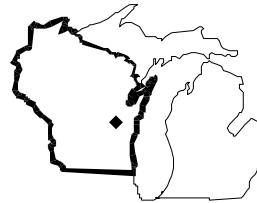
Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Oshkosh for a Brownfields Pilot. Oshkosh is located on the banks of the Fox River and Lake Winnebago and has a population of approximately 55,000, of which approximately 16 percent live below the poverty level. Throughout its history, Oshkosh's economic base has relied heavily on the lumber industry. Numerous sawmills and finished-product lumber industries occupied the banks of the Fox River for years. As the times and economy have changed, many of the industries along the Fox River have either gone out of business or relocated. Many of these old industrial sites are currently vacant or abandoned because of possible environmental concerns related to historical uses in the Fox River area. In 1993, the city adopted a comprehensive plan to encourage redevelopment in Oshkosh with an orientation toward the lakefront and riverfront. The Pilot will target brownfields encompassing approximately 89 acres along the banks of the Fox River and in its associated wetland areas.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Oshkosh, WI

Date of Announcement:
May 2000

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets brownfields along the Fox River waterfront.

Contacts:

City of Oshkosh
Department of
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(920) 236-5055

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 5
(312) 353-3161

Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES

The Pilot will supplement Oshkosh's comprehensive plan, which seeks to encourage the redevelopment of abandoned lakefront and riverfront sites and work jointly with private property owners to identify and clean up sites that have been damaged by environmental contamination. In addition, the Pilot will engage in activities that encourage public access to the riverfront through the creation of a trail system and parks and the integration of public and private riverfront areas. Specifically, the Pilot will be used to assist in the relocation of two manufacturing facilities from the Fox River area and to conduct Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments on brownfields in the targeted area.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Developing an inventory of brownfields sites along the river;
- Conducting site reconnaissance and completing historical research on identified brownfields sites;
- Developing a method for prioritizing identified brownfields sites and selecting several brownfields for further investigation;
- Conducting Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments, as appropriate, on the targeted sites;
- Evaluating cleanup options for the targeted sites;
- Establishing and implementing community outreach programs relating to the targeted brownfields area; and
- Incorporating brownfields site characteristics into a geographic information system (GIS) framework.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.